



Farm Service Agency

*happy holidays*

# FSA NEWS

December 2006

## Maui County FSA Office

210 Imi Kala St., Ste. # 207  
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793  
Phone: 808-244-3100 Ext. 2  
Fax: 808-242-7005  
Toll Free: 1-866-465-0519

## Office Hours

Monday through Friday  
7:30 am – 4:00 pm

## County Committee

William G. Jacintho, Chair  
Debra N. Kelly, Vice-Chair  
Colleen T. Lopes, Member

## Staff

James Robello,  
County Executive Director

Vance Christensen,  
Farm Loan Specialist

Rochelle Kaauamo,  
Program Technician

Faith Umetsu,  
Program Technician

## Inside This Issue:

County Committee Elections

Drought Disaster

USDA Borrower Toll-free Number

We're on the Web!  
[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

## County Committee election results

The ballots have been counted and the results are in. Colleen Lopes will represent farmers and ranchers in Local Administrative Area 1 (LAA). Anna Maria Palomino and James Carpio will serve as the First and Second Alternates. LAA 1 consists of all ranches and farms located north, northwest, and northeast of Kuihelani Hwy., Hana Hwy., and Haleakala Hwy. It includes the communities of Hana, Keanae, Haiku, Makawao, Paia, Kahului, Wailuku, Kahakuloa, and Lahaina.

The Committee extends its gratitude to all those who participated in the election process.

## USDA Designates Maui County a drought disaster area

The U.S. Department of Agriculture designated Maui County a primary natural disaster area due to losses caused by drought that occurred from April 1, 2006, through Sept. 30, 2006.

Maui County was designated natural disaster areas on Nov. 16, 2006, making all qualified farm operators in the designated areas eligible for low interest

emergency (EM) loans from USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA), provided eligibility requirements are met. Farmers have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for loans to help cover part of their actual losses. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. FSA has a variety of programs, in addition to the EM loan program, to help eligible farmers recover from adversity.

USDA has also made other programs available to assist farmers such as the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program.

Interested farmers may contact the Maui County Farm Service Agency for further information on eligibility requirements and application procedures for these and other programs. Additional information is also available online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=diap&topic=landin g>.



**USDA unveils new toll-free number for FSA borrowers**

The toll-free number is **1-888-518-4983** and is available in both English and Spanish. The system delivers information on active FSA loans 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The telephone system provides FSA direct loan borrowers with the following information:

- loan number;
- original loan amount;
- unpaid principal;
- if the borrower is delinquent and the amount of the delinquency;
- due date of next installment;
- principal and interest amount of next installment;
- date last payment was received;

- amount of interest paid in current calendar year; and amount of interest paid for prior loan year.

During the first call to the new system, borrowers will enter their tax identification number (TIN) or the social security number (SSN) associated with the loan. They also will need to enter their zip code. Borrowers will create a personal identification number (PIN) for security. Customers must enter their PIN every time they use the system and may change their PIN. The system menu helps users access helpful information. The system may also direct borrowers to contact their local FSA servicing office if action is necessary on their accounts.

FSA has more than 73,000 direct borrowers with about \$7.2 billion in its loan portfolio. The agency makes direct farm ownership, operating and emergency loans to family-size farmers and ranchers who cannot obtain commercial credit from a bank, Farm Credit System institution or other lenders. Borrowers can use FSA loans to purchase land, livestock, equipment, feed, seed, and supplies, construct buildings or make farm improvements. Special loan programs also exist for rural youth.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

**United States Department of Agriculture  
Farm Service Agency  
210 Imi Kala Street, Suite 207  
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793-1268**

PRSTR STD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 70  
PU'UNENE, HI